IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (ORIGINAL) A vent consisting essentially of:
   a) a metal body comprising an aperture for the passage of a fluid, a first membrane bearing surface surrounding the aperture and a second membrane bearing surface surrounding the aperture; and
   b) a porous membrane having a first side in contact with the first membrane bearing surface and a second side in contact with the second membrane bearing surface, wherein an interfering relation between the membrane, the first membrane bearing surface and the second membrane bearing surface forms a seal surrounding the aperture.

2. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 1, further comprising a cap for protecting the membrane.

3. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 2, wherein the cap further comprises at least one perforation for the passage of a fluid.

4. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 1 wherein the membrane is gas permeable and liquid resistant.

5. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 1, wherein the membrane comprises ePTFE.

6. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 5, in which the membrane comprises ePTFE and at least one support layer.

7. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 5, wherein the membrane comprises ePTFE and a filler.

8. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 7, wherein the filler is selected from the group consisting of absorbents, adsorbents, surface energy modifiers; colorants, pigments, anti-microbials, anti-bacterial agents, anti-fungals and mixtures thereof.

9. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 5, wherein the membrane further comprises a coating.

10. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 9, wherein the coating is selected from the group consisting of absorbents, adsorbents, surface energy modifiers; colorants, pigments, anti-microbials, anti-bacterial agents, anti-fungals and mixtures thereof.

11. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 1, wherein the membrane has a thickness of less than about 13 mils.

12. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 1, wherein the membrane has a thickness of less than about 10 mils.

13. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 1, wherein the membrane has a thickness of less than about 5 mils.

14. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 1, wherein the membrane has a thickness of less than about 3 mils.

15. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 1, wherein the seal is a hermetic seal.

16. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 1, wherein the vent body comprises stainless steel.

17. (ORIGINAL) A vent consisting essentially of:
    a) a metal body having an aperture for the passage of a fluid and a membrane bearing surface surrounding the aperture;
    b) a porous membrane covering the aperture and having a first side in contact with the first membrane bearing surface and a second side opposite the first side;
    c) a metal shell having a second membrane bearing surface, the second membrane bearing surface in contact with the second side of the membrane and the shell attached to the body by an interference fit to form a seal surrounding the aperture.

18. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 17, further comprising a cap for protecting the membrane.

19. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 18, wherein the cap further comprises at least one perforation for the passage of a fluid.

20. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 17, wherein the membrane comprises ePTFE.

21. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 20, in which the membrane comprises ePTFE and at least one support layer.

22. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 20, wherein the membrane comprises ePTFE and a filler.

23. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 22, wherein the filler is selected from the group consisting of absorbents, adsorbents, colorants, surface energy modifiers; pigments, anti-microbials, anti-bacterial agents, anti-fungals and mixtures thereof.

24. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 20, wherein the membrane further comprises a coating.

25. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 24, wherein the coating is selected from the group consisting of absorbents, adsorbents, surface energy modifiers; colorants, pigments, anti-microbials, anti-bacterial agents, anti-fungals and mixtures thereof.

26. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 17, wherein the membrane is gas permeable and liquid resistant.

27. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 17, wherein the membrane has a thickness of less than about 13 mils.

28. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 17, wherein the membrane has a thickness of less than about 10 mils.

29. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 17, wherein the membrane has a thickness of less than about 5 mils.

30. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 17, wherein the membrane has a thickness of less than about 3 mils.

31. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 17, wherein the seal is a hermetic seal.

32. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 17, wherein the shell further comprises a baffle disposed between the at least one perforation and the membrane for preventing liquid from contacting the membrane.

33. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 17, wherein the body and shell comprise stainless steel.

34. (ORIGINAL) A device, comprising:
    a) a housing;
    b) a port in the housing;
    c) a vent disposed over the port, the vent consisting essentially of a metal body having an aperture for passage of a gas;
    d) a porous membrane spanning the aperture; and
    e) a metal cap having a perforation therein for the passage of a gas, the cap attached to the body by an interference fit to form a seal between the membrane and the body, the seal surrounding the aperture.

35. (ORIGINAL) The method of making a vent, comprising:
    a) providing a metal body including an aperture therethrough for the passage of a gas,
    b) covering the aperture with a porous membrane such that the membrane contacts the body,
    c) attaching a metal cover having a perforation therein to the body by an interference fit such that the cover contacts the membrane, whereby a seal surrounding the aperture is formed between the membrane and the body.